

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-4, 6-13 and 16 will be pending in the present application.

Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment can be found at least at page 8, lines 10-20 and page 9, lines 14-19.

Claims 2, 8, 10, 11 are amended to provided corrected antecedent basis.

Claim 7 is amended to correct dependency from claim 6.

Claim 12 is amended to correct typographical errors

The mathematical operator “ \geq ”, which was inadvertently left out in the Amendment filed on October 27, 2007, is added to claim 6, but no amendments are made to the claim, beyond those made on October 27, 2007.

Claims 5, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter is added.

II. Response to Objection to claim 12

Claim 12 is objected to because of certain informalities.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendment to claim 12, the objection to claim 12 has been addressed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

III. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-15.

Applicants respectfully submit that the §112 rejections are overcome in view of the amendments to claims 1, 2, 5, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-15.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (EP 0 756 238 A1).

The present invention as described in amended claim 1 recites a recycling method for recycling a product partially or fully made from a polyester, wherein the product has an identification display being appended integrally to the product so as to recycle the product. The recycling method comprises steps (a)-(d), as recited in amended claim 1.

An object of the present invention is to solve various problems of conventional recycling techniques in order to contribute to the construction of a recycling-oriented society as required by modern society. Namely, an object of the present invention is to establish a consistent system for effectively collecting used products and then recycling the collected products to form the recycling-oriented society in which resources and energy are saved. A further embodiment of the present invention is to recycle the used products into intermediate raw materials for producing products that provide a recycling system for supplying products suitable for the recycling-oriented society, wherein (1) products can be produced with reduced energy without burdening the environment and then supplied to markets; (2) products for maintaining the health and safety of human beings and animals and plants living together with the human beings can be

supplied to markets; and (3) products whose wastes can easily be recycled can be supplied. See page 4, line 22 to page 5, line 1 of the present specification.

In order to achieve these goals, the present invention needs "to connect members including at least product producers, product sellers, members for collecting the used products, members for transporting the used products, and intermediate raw material producers, as constituent members, who jointly operate the system for recycling the products, to each other through a telecommunication network to share the management information of the above-described identification displays appended to the recycled products." See page 5, lines 26-33 of the present specification.

In contrast, Suzuki only discloses "discarded articles processing system for carrying out treatments or processings for discarded articles (processings for making it possible to restore the discarded articles as resources, i.e., recycle processing and waste disposal processing)", as described at column 1, lines 6-10. However Suzuki does not disclose "a recycle method for polyester products" that the presently claimed invention does.

Further, Suzuki only discloses "a recycle method that importations related to recycled products are totally managed by recycling factories 6 and 7", and persons other than those inside recycling factories 6 and 7 cannot share the importations. In this regard, Suzuki clearly describes at column 5, line 46 to column 6, line 16 and Fig.5 that:

In each of the recycling factories 6 and 7, information as required is collected in accordance with recycling rules (1) to (6) mentioned hereinafter, whereon recycling methods are determined or decided for the individual discarded televisions as collected, which is then followed by recycle processings. At this juncture, with the recycling method, it is intended to mean a method of

reusing the discarded article. To this end, each of the recycling factories 6 and 7 is equipped with a recycling system for the discarded televisions in order to determine or decide the recycling methods for given ones of the discarded televisions, respectively. As is illustrated in Fig. 5 (which is further elucidated below), the article recycling system is composed of an input unit 34 for inputting information concerning the articles as "an information acquiring means" for making available a variety of information required for the decision mentioned above, a storage unit 350 for storing databases concerning information required for the reuse of the articles, a recycle method decision processor unit 29 for deciding a recycle processing for a given article in accordance with the recycling rules prepared previously by referencing the information of the article destined for reuse as contained in the database stored in the storage unit 350 on the basis of the information concerning the article inputted through the medium of the input unit 34, and a recycling factory facility control unit 39 which serves as "an information transmitting means" for transmitting the result of the decision made by the recycle method decision processor unit 29 to a succeeding process without fail and which thus functions as the output unit for generating the result of decision made for a given article as an output. The recycle method decision processor unit 29 installed in association with each of the recycling factories 6 and 7 decides the recycling method in accordance with the recycling rules (1) to (6) mentioned below and at the same time executes the processing relevant for the recycling method as decided while determining distribution/delivery routes for the articles undergone no processing as well as the articles having been subjected to the processing.

Moreover, as shown to Figs. 13 - 22, all management information related to the discarded articles are stored in databases 35-37 and 41 of the recycling factories 6 and 7, and the management information cannot be accessed by someone from outside recycling factories 6 and 7 through a telecommunication network such as an internet.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that Suzuki does not disclose each and every element of amended claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentable. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-13 and 16 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection based on Suzuki is therefore, respectfully requested.

V. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Suzuki.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable, including by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 9 based on Suzuki is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 15, 2008



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